

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS

OF

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th January 1883.

### CONTENTS :

	Page.		Page.
The Municipal Bill ... ..	29	The Municipal Bill ... ..	33
Acquittal of Tarun Sinha by the High Court ... ..	ib.	Government on the Vernacular Press ... ..	ib.
The police in the Pubna case ... ..	30	Increase of cost of litigation ... ..	ib.
The Municipal Bill ... ..	ib.	Rent Bill and appointment of representative members to the Viceregal Council ... ..	ib.
High-handedness of Magisterial officers ... ..	31	Lord Ripon and British policy in India ... ..	ib.
The Indian Association on the Civil Service question ... ..	ib.	Mr. Manson and the Chittagong case ... ..	34
The Municipal Bill ... ..	ib.	The Arms Act ... ..	ib.
Supply of official information to Native Editors ... ..	32	The Municipal Bill ... ..	ib.
The Municipal Bill ... ..	ib.	Municipalities and Police charges ... ..	35
The Pubna case ... ..	ib.	Agricultural Loans' Bill ... ..	ib.
Ryots' representative in the Indian Legislative Council ... ..	ib.	The Balasore police ... ..	36
Government on Native Newspapers ... ..	ib.	A police jemadar as a complainant in a case ... ..	ib.
The case of Tarun Sinha ... ..	33	A Municipal case in Cuttack ... ..	ib.
Fresh date-juice and tari ... ..	ib.		

### LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Calcutta ...	2,100	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Bhārat Hitaishī" ... ..	Burrisal ...	.....	
3	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong ...	600	19th January 1883.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
5	"Jātiya Suhrid" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
6	"Tripurā Vārtāvaḥa" ... ..	Commillah ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
7	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta ...	700	15th ditto.
8	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	26th ditto.
9	"Bangabāsi" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	20th ditto.
10	"Bārtābaha" ... ..	Pubna ...	.....	20th ditto.
11	"Bhārat Bandhu" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	20th ditto.
12	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensing ...	671	16th and 23rd January 1883.
13	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta ...	2,000	
14	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Burdwan ...	296	19th January 1883.
15	"Chāruvārtā" ... ..	Sherepore, Mymensing ...	.....	22nd ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca ...	350	21st ditto.
17	"Dūt" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
18	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly ...	745	26th ditto.
19	"Gramvārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	.....	20th ditto.
20	"Halisahar Prakāshikā" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	20th ditto.
21	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye ...	200	24th ditto.
22	"Medinī" ... ..	Midnapore ...	.....	22nd ditto.
23	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore ...	487	
24	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
25	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	850	
26	"Paridarshak" ... ..	Sylhet ...	.....	
27	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore ...	275	12th ditto.



No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI—concluded.					
Weekly.					
28	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Beauleah ...	.....	25th January 1883.	
29	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kakiniā, Rungpore ...	250		
30	"Sādhārānī" ... ..	Chinsurah ...	500	21st ditto.	
31	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	500	22nd ditto.	
32	"Som Prakāsh" ... ..	Changripottā, 24-Perghs. ...	.....		
33	"Sudhākar" ... ..	Mymensing ...	.....	20th ditto.	
34	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta ...	4,000		
35	"Srihatta Prakāsh" ... ..	Sylhet ...	440		
Daily.					
36	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	700	20th to 25th January 1883.	
37	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	300	25th and 26th ditto.	
38	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	625	20th to 24th ditto.	
39	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	500	22nd to 27th ditto.	
40	"Prabhātī" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	15th January 1883.	
41	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....		
ENGLISH AND URDU.					
Weekly.					
42	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta ...	365	20th ditto.	
HINDI.					
Weekly.					
43	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta ...	500	18th ditto.	
44	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	200	22nd ditto.	
45	"Uchit Baktā" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	20th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
Weekly.					
46	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Calcutta ...	250	19th ditto.	
URDU.					
Weekly.					
47	"Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	23rd ditto.	
Bi-Weekly.					
48	"Amir-ul-Akhbār" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....		
ASSAMESE.					
Monthly.					
49	"Assam Vilāsinī" ... ..	Sibsagar ...	.....	6th and 13th January 1883.	
URIYA.					
Weekly.					
50	"Utkal Dīpikā" ... ..	Cuttack ...	200		
51	"Utkal Darpan" ... ..	Balasore ...	160		
52	"Balasore Samvad Vāhikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	125	11th January 1883.	
53	"Perusottam Patrikā" ... ..	Pooree ...	.....	15th ditto.	
Fortnightly.					
54	"Mayurbhunj Pākshik Pātrikā" ... ..	Mayurbhunj ...	.....		
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
55	"Kshatriya Patrikā" ... ..	Patna ...	.....		



## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

THE *Prabháti*, of the 15th January, makes the following observations regarding the new Municipal Bill:—

The new Municipal Bill.

PRABHATI,  
January 15th, 1883.

It is laid down in one of the sections that, if it should become necessary, the local Government will be able to exclude any particular Municipality from the benefit of the elective system, and to appoint members thereto. This is not bad: it is not likely that every Municipality will deserve the boon of elective system. What is, however, open to objection is that there is nothing in the section referred to, to show what qualifications a Municipality must possess before it could be held entitled to the benefit. It may so happen that a future Lieutenant-Governor, hostile to the extension of the elective system, may gradually proceed to exclude a considerable number of Municipalities from its benefit. If, therefore, it were clearly laid down that for only particular and specific shortcomings on the part of a Municipality it should be liable to forfeit the privilege in question, Lieutenant-Governors would not be able to take away the boon at their pleasure. The law should therefore be clear in its utterances in this matter. Another provision is open to objection, namely, that absence from six consecutive meetings without the permission of the Commissioners shall make a member liable to forfeit his commissionership. This indeed is a very stringent provision. The Commissioners might, with a view to get rid of any particular member, refuse him leave of absence, and then, if he stayed away from six consecutive meetings, he would cease to be a Commissioner; or it might so happen that the time appointed for the meeting having proved inconvenient to any particular member, he was obliged to absent himself from the Municipal meeting. This also would entail upon him the same consequence. This is not certainly proper. In this matter the rule that obtains in the Calcutta Municipality, namely, that absence from Calcutta for six months should be considered a disqualifying circumstance might with advantage be extended to Municipalities in the mofussil. The writer next refers to the provision that any member, who shall have been guilty of misconduct or disgraceful conduct, or who may be punished with imprisonment, shall cease to be a Commissioner. Now, at first sight this provision appears fair enough, but a little reflection will show that it is not altogether free from objection. The Bill does not clearly state what will be considered misconduct or disgraceful conduct, and this uncertainty and vagueness might offer opportunities to magisterial officers to report to Government against particular Commissioners who might all the while be considered by the public as men of unblemished moral character. It is therefore desirable that the language of the Bill should be clear in this respect. Then as to a Commissioner becoming disqualified by reason of his being sentenced to imprisonment, here also there is room for some liberal concession. In a country where Magistrates like Messrs. Sharp and Mosley are not rare, it would be no wonder if innocent persons were occasionally sent to jail. It would therefore be simply unjust, without going through the merits of his case, to compel a man to resign his commissionership merely because he had been sentenced to undergo imprisonment.

2. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 15th January, thus refers to the judgment of the High Court in the case of Tarun Sinha Hazaree of Chittagong:—

The acquittal of Tarun Sinha by the High Court.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
January 15th, 1883.

Mr. Justice Field has shown very good judgment by acquitting Tarun Sinha. The authorities have now-a-days grown very high-handed, and it would have been difficult for people to live in this country had Mr. Field supported the injustice perpetrated in this case by the Joint-Magistrate of Chittagong. But although Mr. Field



has given satisfaction to natives by acquitting Tarun Sinha, he has nevertheless marred the lustre of his good decision by the strictures he has passed upon the native character. The aspersions he has cast upon native subordinate officers were quite uncalled for and unseasonable. It would have been well had he indulged in those uncharitable remarks a few days before or after, inasmuch as the doings of Mr. Rattray, the District Superintendent of Police of Pubna, have verily put to shame all European officers in this country. The quite uncalled-for and cowardly murder committed by Mr. Rattray was of a nature that no Bengali, a coward as he is, would ever be guilty of. The subordinate native ministerial officers have been blamed for the treatment to which Tarun Sinha was subjected, but Mr. Field has been constrained to admit in his decision that Mr. Manson, the Collector of Chittagong, had acted throughout illegally in this case. And yet the poor native subordinates have been made scapegoats.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
January 15th, 1883.

3. The same paper regrets to notice that, although the action of the police in the Pubna case resulted in the death of an innocent man, Mr. Thompson has not yet taken any decisive steps in this matter beyond deputing Mr. Metcalfe to make an enquiry. But where was the necessity of an enquiry? The facts are well known and have not been denied. What it behoved the Lieutenant-Governor to consider was, whether or not there was any occasion for firing upon the crowd that had assembled in the house of Azimuddin Chowdhuri. The procedure which ought to have been followed by the police under the circumstances of the case is laid down in sections 334, 103, and 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code. But in utter disregard of the provisions of the law, the police fired upon a crowd who, it is in evidence, never attempted any resistance. There is nothing in the law which could justify the action of Mr. Rattray, who, it is clear, has rendered himself liable to a criminal prosecution. If Government desires to hoodwink the public, then it has done well by deputing Mr. Metcalfe to make an enquiry. But if, on the contrary, it is really desired to determine whether or not Mr. Rattray is guilty, the whole matter ought to have been made over for the consideration of a Commission composed of natives and Europeans, and not, as has been done, to a single European Civilian.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

4. The following is from an article in the same paper on the new Municipal Bill:—Nobody had ever dreamt that Messrs. Thompson and Reynolds would thus mercilessly throw the people down upon earth after having raised them to the skies. They would not lose their confidence in Mr. Thompson even if he did a thousand wrongs, but they could not help being mortified. If Government, under the rule of Lord Ripon and Mr. Thompson, sought to deceive them with presents of glass-ware, they would know that their miseries would never end. The new Municipal Bill introduced into the Bengal Council by Mr. Reynolds has extremely disappointed the people of this country. He, as well as the Lieutenant-Governor, have disappointed them after having held out to them many hopes. The two privileges for which the people had made great agitation, clamoured loudly, and memorialized Government were (1) that the rate-payers should be able to elect their Municipal Commissioners, and (2) that the Commissioners should be able to elect their own Chairman. Now in the Bill under notice provision has indeed been made for the introduction of the elective system in one or two places, but no power is conferred upon the Commissioners to elect their own Chairman. The writer then refers to sections 14 and 17 of the Bill. The latter takes away what the former gives: that is, although Government confers by section 14 the elective system upon all



Municipalities, still by section 17 it reserves to itself the power of taking away the boon from any Municipality whenever it may so desire; and this it shall be able to do without assigning any reason for its action. This is not the independence the people wanted. The provisions of section 17 will make them constantly depend upon the favour of local authorities—a state of things not certainly desirable. Sections 15 and 24 are equally open to objection.

Did Mr. Reynolds so long hold out to the people the bait of this hollow privilege? The authorities are mistaken if they suppose that the people of Bengal are so consummate fools that they will congratulate themselves upon the acquisition of such an unsubstantial privilege. They did not ask for Local Self-Government; it was Lord Ripon who generously and of his own motion promised to confer it upon them. Whether the authorities will or will not grant the privilege, rests entirely with them. But certain it is that the manner in which Mr. Rivers Thompson proposes to make the concession will not help to make good the pledges given by Lord Ripon. There is reason to fear that the inhabitants in the mofussil, where Local Boards will be established, will not be given equal privileges with inhabitants of towns and cities. It was expected that the Local Self-Government Bill for Bengal, which is the most advanced province in India, and honoured by the presence of the Viceroy, and fortunate in having Mr. Thompson as its Lieutenant-Governor, would be as far as possible free from defects, but it now turns out that the Bills prepared for the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces are decidedly superior to the Bengal Bill.

5. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 16th January, contains an article headed the "High-handedness of Magisterial officers."

BHARAT MIHIR.  
January 16th, 1863

High handedness of Magisterial officers.

The writer observes that, although the anarchy and oppression which prevailed under Mahomedans have now in a large measure given place to peace and order under British rule, still the high-handedness of European Magisterial officers is now as prevalent as ever. Almost every day newspapers contain accounts of Magisterial vagaries; petitions are being made to Government by the dozen, and yet there is no remedy. This is greatly to be regretted. Under Lord Ripon's rule oppression should cease to exist. These officers are the enemies of Government, and their doings tend to diminish the loyalty which the people entertain towards the British Government. The writer remarks in the course of the article that the proposal to confer Local Self-Government upon the people of this country has so exasperated certain Magisterial officers that they feel that they cannot retain their power and prestige without growing despotic.

Memorial of the Indian Association on the Civil Service question.

6. The same paper cordially approves of the memorial recently made to the Secretary of State for India by the Indian Association on the Civil Service question.

BHARAT MIHIR.

7. The same paper remarks that the new Municipal Bill has disappointed public expectations. The provisions regarding the appointment of Chairmen

BHARAT MIHIR.

The new Municipal Bill.

of Municipalities are open to grave objection. It has been repeatedly remarked that Local Self-Government will be made an impossibility if Magistrates are appointed Chairmen of Municipalities. Section 24 of the Bill may not be productive of any injurious consequences so long as the present Administration remains in power. But that Administration will not last for ever, and there is no knowing what attitude will be taken up by a future Administration towards the question of Local Self-Government. Considering the tainted official atmosphere of India, the probabilities are rather that at the close of Lord Ripon's rule there will be ground for



apprehensions regarding this subject. Government is in a manner reserving to itself the full power of appointing the Chairman of a Municipality and of electing members. The provisions of the Bill on this point should be made perfectly lucid.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
January 20th, 1883.

8. The *Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th January, regrets to notice that in directing the supply of Administration Reports and other official publications to Editors of Vernacular Newspapers, Government has made an invidious distinction between weekly and daily papers. Only one of the dailies, and that the least influential, has been granted the privilege while the oldest and the most ably conducted Journals such as the *Samachar Chandrika* and the *Prabhakar* have been denied it. The claims of the *Prabhati* are also mentioned in this connection.

BANGABASI,  
January 20th, 1883.

9. The *Bangabasi*, of the 20th January, remarks that the recently-published Municipal Bill has exceedingly disappointed the public. There is little difference between the old Act and the new Bill, and it is not therefore clear why Government went into all the expense of reprinting the old bulky Act. The few verbal alterations which have been made might have been notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*. There is nothing in the Bill which could be interpreted as placing a new source of income at the disposal of Municipalities. On the contrary, great care has been taken to give legal sanction to the practice hitherto followed by Government of levying from Municipalities charges on different accounts. The new Bill does not confer any benefits upon the people. Lord Ripon clearly indicated his desire to confer upon the rate-payers the privilege of electing their Commissioners, and upon the Commissioners the privilege of electing their own Chairman. In the Bill the rate-payers are kept out from both privileges. The appointment of official Chairmen is therefore inevitable.

BARTABAHA,  
January 20th, 1883.

10. The *Bartabaha*, of the 20th January, expresses a hope that the report which has been submitted to Government by the Commissioner, Mr. Metcalfe, regarding the case of Azeemuddin Chowdhury of Dulai in Pubna will be given to the public. The enquiry made by Mr. Metcalfe was conducted with neither ability nor impartiality. The depositions of the officers implicated were taken down in secret. The Commissioner, it is further said, partook of the hospitality of the officers in question, and spared no efforts to rake up everything that could throw discredit upon the character of Azeemuddin Chowdhury.

BHARAT MITRA,  
January 18th, 1883.

11. The *Bharat Mitra*, of the 18th January, remarks, in reference to the appointment of the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal as a Member of the Indian Legislative Council, that it behoves Lord Ripon to nominate to the Council a representative of the ryots also. Now that the Bengal Rent Bill will shortly be introduced into the Council, this measure is urgently required in the interests of justice.

SADHARANI,  
January 21st, 1883.

12. The *Sadharani*, of the 21st January, is exceedingly thankful to Government for the kind remarks which have been made in the last Annual Administration Report for Bengal regarding the spirit of vernacular newspapers published in these provinces. It would have been more gratifying if these remarks had appeared during Sir Ashley Eden's stay in this country. Thanks to the liberal views of Lord Ripon and the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, there is a marked contrast noticeable between the estimates formed of the tone and ability of native press given in former Administration Reports and the estimate given in the last Report. The Editor is thankful to Government for its



noble resolve to furnish Native Editors with official papers, and earnestly prays that all official publications be supplied to all Native Editors.

13. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 22nd January, refers to the case of Tarun Sinha Hazaree, and to the judgment of Mr. Justice Field in the case in terms similar to those noticed in paragraph 2.

CHARU VARTA,  
January 22nd, 1883.

14. The same paper condemns the action of the Bengal Council in having included, purely from considerations of revenue, fresh date-juice among exciseable articles. Nobody had expected that the present Lieutenant-Governor would so closely tread in the footsteps of his predecessor in matters relating to excise.

CHARU VARTA.

15. The same paper remarks that the new Municipal Bill has disappointed the public. [See paragraph 4.]

CHARU VARTA.

16. The *Som Prakásh*, of 22nd January, says that, although Sir Ashley Eden's last recorded opinion on the Vernacular Press, published in the Bengal Administration Report for 1881-82, is on the whole favourable to it, it is not altogether free from his characteristic animus against it.

SOM PRAKASH,  
January 22nd, 1883.

17. The same paper expresses the surprise that whilst the cost of most public departments is decreasing, that of the courts of law should go on increasing. As the income of the Postal Department is increasing, postage charge on letters, &c., is decreasing. Why is it, then, that as the income of the courts of law is increasing the cost of litigation is not decreasing? Costly litigation is a grievance, and in many instances a barrier against justice. It also increases the power of the rich over the poor. Many poor people, who require the assistance of the courts, cannot now get it, because it has become far too costly. But this state of things is not good. The people of the country will feel more substantial relief if the cost of litigation be reduced than they have been able to feel from the abolition and reduction of the import duties. The writer says that formerly no searching fee was taken in courts if a copy of a decree was taken immediately after its passing. Now, however, a searching fee is taken irrespective of the time that may have elapsed since the passing of a decree. But this is very unfair.

SOM PRAKASH.

18. The same paper says that, by taking in the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal into the Viceregal Council, Lord Ripon has intimated his desire to have the Rent Bill fairly examined by all who are interested in it. But the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal will represent the zemindars. There should be therefore some one in the Council to represent the ryots. There are no doubt European members of the Council who represent the ryot's side. But the ryots themselves will be more pleased to see their interests advocated by one of their own countrymen. Either Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee or Mr. Ananda Mohan Basu would do exceedingly well in the Viceregal Council as a representative of the ryots. But besides representatives of the zemindars and the ryots, who would naturally take extreme views on their respective sides, there ought to be in the Council some impartial men, belonging neither to the one side nor to the other, and able to decide calmly, dispassionately, and in the spirit of a judge, between both the sides.

SOM PRAKASH.

19. The *Bhárat Míhir*, of 23rd January, is of opinion that India cannot expect to make more progress under any other rule than it is making under English rule, and that she will require centuries of education before she can

BHARAT MÍHIR,  
January 23rd, 1883.



be in a position to govern herself. She is not therefore desirous to get rid of English rule. But in order that that rule may be lasting and productive of the happiest results to both England and India, it is necessary that it should be marked by the mildness and benevolence which characterises Lord Ripon's administration in India. They are wrong who hold that India can only be retained by England by the adoption of an iron policy. Lord Ripon has proved that the strongest tie between England and India can only be found in a gentle and humane policy. All India therefore desires that His Lordship's term of office may be doubled. Rapid changes of policy prevent the Indian people from understanding the political principles of the English nation, and the constantly changing effects of constantly changing policy take away from the Indian mind all sense of respect for the English Government in India.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
January 23rd, 1883.

20. The same paper says that the High Court has not noticed Mr. Manson's conduct in the Chittagong case. Mr. Manson and the Chittagong case.

in sufficiently severe terms, and appears anxious to whitewash Mr. Manson's part in the affair at the expense of the subordinate native officers who were employed by him to carry out his orders. The writer disavows ill-feeling against individual officers of Government; but says that, when justice is sacrificed by them or for their sake, disrespect for the ruling power may spring up in the national mind.

BHARAT MIHIR.

21. The same paper regrets that, although the best part of Lord Ripon's term of office has expired, no steps have been taken to repeal the Arms Act, and Government seems unable to form an idea of the wound which has been inflicted on the native mind by the passing of that Act. The writer refers to the terrible loss of human life caused within three years (1879 to 1881) by wild animals, and attributes that loss to the Arms Act. The writer goes on to say —

"Government cannot realise to itself what a terrible affair it is to take out a license for the use of arms from a Magistrate. For poor people that is in many instances impossible. Those who have a sense of self-respect feel shame to ask for a license. Many Magistrates are exceedingly reluctant to grant licenses. To the severity of the law is added the severity of the Magistrate. From the union of the two forces, the use of arms by the natives of this country has become gradually impossible. The Magistrates can do what they like in the name of breaches of the peace. The Magistrate of the district is the undisputed lord of all; no one has the right to see what he does."

BHARAT MIHIR

The Arms Act.

22. The same paper says with reference to the Municipal Bill—

(1). That although the power of appointing Chairmen is being given to the Commissioners, the Government is, as before, retaining the whole power in its own hands. But this should not be, inasmuch as the Chairman is the most important element in a municipality, and no room for error or abuse should be allowed to exist on this head. Again, if Magistrates have to be consulted about the places where the Commissioners themselves will be allowed to appoint their Chairman, the intentions of Government will not in many instances be crowned with success. For Magistrates will in almost all cases object to the appointment of Chairmen by others than themselves. The Government may, as a rule, invest each municipality with the power of appointing its own Chairman, and reserve in its own hands the power of withholding that privilege from certain municipalities, the names of such municipalities being published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.



(2.) That although Commissioners had under the old law the power to appoint Vice-Chairmen of Municipalities, as a matter of fact the Vice-Chairmen appointed by them were in almost all instances Government officers—Joint-Magistrates or Civil Surgeons. But if the principle of Self-government is to be really introduced into Municipalities, Government should frame the law in such a way that one of the two—Chairman or Vice-Chairman—may be a non-official gentleman. If no good law is made regarding the Chairman, Self-government in this country will be only a nominal affair.

(3.) That as regards the appointment of officers in Municipalities, dealt with in section 46 of the Bill, a long connection of the writer with Municipalities has convinced him that the power of appointing or dismissing such officers ought not to remain in the hands of the Chairman. It is provided in the new Bill, as it had been in the old law, that the Chairman should consult the Commissioners only in making appointments to posts of more than Rs. 200 a month. But there are no such big posts in most mofussil Municipalities. Much power should not be given to one man, especially when that man, as proposed in the new Bill, will not be the Magistrate of the district. The writer thinks that the power of appointing and dismissing officers in all cases in which the salary exceeds Rs. 10 a month should rest with the whole body of Commissioners.

(4.) That as regards section 63 of the Bill, it is necessary that something more should be done besides translating the Municipal Budget into the vernacular of the district and keeping such translation in the Municipal office for public inspection. People seldom come to the Municipal office to examine the budget; but it is at the same time necessary that they should learn to take an interest in the proceedings of their Commissioners in the matter of revenue and expenditure; so if the public are to be kept informed on such points, it is necessary that vernacular translations of the budget should be published in the vernacular newspapers of the district. The law should enjoin such publication, as it will not otherwise be made. The cost of such publication will be trifling, but the public benefit will be large.

23. The same paper thinks that Municipalities have not at all benefited by being relieved of police charges. The writer instances the Mymensingh Municipality, which, though relieved of the annual charge of a little over Rs. 1,000 on account of the police, has been saddled with the monthly charge of Rs. 60 on account of the local charitable dispensary, and Rs. 50 on account of the local Bengali school. The Director of Public Instruction has lately called upon the Municipality to enlarge the school building, which will involve an expenditure of over Rs. 3,000, although the Municipality has not even Rs. 300 to spare.

BHARAT MIHIE,  
December 23rd, 1883.

24. The *Utkal Dīpikā*, of the 6th January, makes the following remarks regarding the Agricultural Loans' Bill:—

UTKAL DĪPIKĀ,  
January 6th, 1883.

Agricultural Loans' Bill.

Government is constantly passing new laws for the benefit of the people, but it is to be regretted that some of these prove rather injurious than beneficial, and are consequently held in abeyance for some time, and eventually repealed. Many Acts stand in need of revision. The cause of this unsatisfactory state of things is doubtless to be found in the fact that the opinions of the people are not consulted regarding any legislative measures. There can be no doubt that the recent Resolution of Government, directing the publication of all the drafts of Bills, will have the effect of remedying this evil. After stating the object of the Agricultural Loans' Bill, and giving extracts from Sir S. Bayley's speech, the Editor remarks:—On whatever basis the proposed Agricultural Banks may be estab-



lished, it is to be hoped that the merchants who may deposit money therein will benefit as well as the ryots. It is further to be hoped that, as Government is willing to guarantee the solvency of the banks, there will be no hesitation on the part of the public to utilize these institutions.

BALASORE SEPTAHIK  
SAMBAD,  
January 11th, 1883.

25. The *Balasore Saptahik Sambád*, of the 11th January, announces the conclusion of a case of robbery (highway) in which the Police were most active in

apprehending persons and placing them in custody. These were, however, liberated through the good judgment of Deputy Magistrate Protap Baboo. Had this case occurred in the mofussil, there can be no doubt that it would have come under the Police C Form. Having taken place in the town, it was not easy to make use of the C Form. It is to be greatly regretted that two innocent persons were kept several days in custody. Many Police officers are of a violent temper, and, possessing power, harass and insult people. Of this there are numberless instances.

PURUSOTTOM  
PATRIKA,  
January 15th, 1883.

26. The *Purusotum Patriká*, of the 15th January, referring to a suit in the Criminal Court, says:—The complainant charged the defendant as having with others assaulted him in his house, to which he had

A Police Jemadar complainant in a suit.  
gone at night in order to ascertain whether he, the defendant, a previously convicted person, was at home or not. The defendant urged that, when about to go out of his house, he found the complainant knocking at the door of the room where his wife and daughters were asleep, and supposing him to be a thief beat him. The case is still pending.

UTKAL DIPIKA,  
January 13th, 1883.

27. The *Utkal Dipiká*, of the 13th January, contains the following article:—During the week Mr. Manisty, the Vice-Chairman of the Cuttack Municipality,

The Cuttack Municipality.  
has got up the following new case. Some months ago the Municipality appointed a certain place for slaughtering animals daily required to supply meat for the townspeople, and having fixed on a rate, the slaughter-house was farmed out to a certain person on the understanding that no animal should be killed anywhere else. The regimental butchers having found it inconvenient to slaughter at the above place applied to the Colonel Commanding for a spot within the regimental lines to be assigned for the purpose. This having been granted, animals for use of the regiment were killed there. The farmer of the general slaughter-house reported this to Mr. Manisty, who is both Joint-Magistrate and Vice-Chairman of the Town Municipality. He directed a summons to the Colonel of the Regiment to be served upon the butchers under charge of breaking the Municipal laws. The Colonel on receipt of the summons sent it back without having it served upon the persons mentioned therein, stating that the butchers referred to were not guilty, inasmuch as they were acting under his orders. Mr. Manisty, the Joint-Magistrate, however, would not let the case drop; he therefore made over the summonses to a peon directing him to serve them himself upon the persons concerned. The peon went with the summonses and asked the parties to take them, but they objected, stating that they would not receive them, inasmuch as they had acted under the Colonel's order. Upon this a quarrel ensued between the peon and the parties summoned, and in the meantime some one having given an exaggerated report of the case to the Colonel, a guard, consisting of about a hundred sepoys, was immediately sent out, who took the said peon to the presence of the Colonel. The Colonel having understood the real merits of the case, let the peon go. Having escaped from the arms of the soldiers, the peon went to the Joint-Magistrate and reported all that had happened to him. The Joint-Magistrate having duly taken down the peon's statement, prepared a case against the Colonel for contempt of Court, and forwarded the papers to the District



Magistrate for the purpose of issuing a summons against the Colonel. The Magistrate took no action until next day, when the case was dismissed. This decision of the District Magistrate gives universal satisfaction, though Mr. Manisty is not satisfied. He considers the action of the Magistrate illegal. He immediately entered a protest and begged permission to submit the whole of the proceedings to the Sessions Judge for his judgment. The case has accordingly been submitted to the Judge. As the case is *sub judice* there should be no comments made upon it. It may, however, be said without difficulty that, while the affairs of the Municipality remain in the hands of Mr. Manisty, neither the inhabitants of the town nor the District Officer, nor any one else, can remain free from anxiety. Why did Mr. Pawsey, who is a lover of peace, and a good man, commit the Municipality into the hands of a quarrelsome officer like Mr. Manisty, who is the cause of extensive discord?

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 27th January 1883.*



